

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 SS-20 NSC-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4362

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, RP, US

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: US-PHILIPPINES NEGOTIATIONS

REFS: A. STATE 131511; B. MANILA 7324

1. USDEL FINDS LATEST ROMUALDEZ PROPOSAL (MANILA 7324) MOVES MATTERS SLIGHTLY AHEAD IN THAT GOP WOULD RECOGNIZE THAT GUAM RIGHTS WOULD DEPEND ON SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENTS ON LONG TERM CAPACITY AND US ROUTE OBJECTIVES. HOWEVER, IF FUTURE TALKS UNSUCCESSFUL, ALL WE WOULD BE LEFT WITH IS SHORT TERM CAPACITY DEAL INVOLVING THREE 747S FOR PAA AND NWA AND SUBSTITUTION THREE DC 10S FOR PHILS. THIS WOULD NOT IN VIEW OF USDEL, INCLUDING VICE CHAIRMAN GILLILLAND, BE SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENTS ALTHOUGH UNDER APPROPRIATE CIRCUMSTANCES MIGHT BE WORTH THE RISK.

2. ONE IMPORTANT ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THIS ROUND HAS BEEN TENTATIVE AGREEMENT ON LENGTHLY (6 YEARS) CAPACITY REGIME (ALTHOUGH QUESTIONS OF SUBSTITUTION AND MAXIMUM FREQUENCY LIMITS NOT DECIDED), AND USDEL BELIEVES EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO SALVAGE THIS. USDEL THEREFORE RECOMMENDS THAT AN EFFORT BE MADE, EITHER IN WASHINGTON OR MANILA, TO REACH FINAL AGREEMENT ON 6 YEAR CAPACITY REGIME PRIOR TO JULY 15.

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(THIS MAY BE DIFFICULT BECAUSE WE UNDERSTAND ROMUALDEZ

MAY NOT BE BACK IN WASHINGTON MUCH BEFORE THAT DATE NOR WILL USDEL ALTHOUGH OTHERS COULD HANDLE). IF SUCH MEETING CANNOT BE SCHEDULED BEFORE JULY 15 THEN SUGGEST GOP BE PERSUADED TO DEFER INTRODUCTION DATE OF DC 10S SO CAB ORDER CAN BE DELAYED.

3. THUS, UNDER SCENARIO OUTLINED ABOVE, CAPACITY ARRANGEMENTS, INCLUDING EXPANSION ON BOTH SIDES THIS YEAR, COULD TAKE PLACE IN FRAMEWORK OF LONG TERM ARRANGEMENTS WITHOUT THE PROBLEM OF PERIODIC CRISES. ROUTE NEGOTIATIONS COULD THEN PROCEED AT AN ORDERLY PACE. PHIL INTEREST IN INITIALLY GUAM AND ULTIMATELY TOKYO WOULD INSURE QUID PRO QUO EXPANSION OF US SIDE. IN THIS CONNECTION IT SHOULD BE CLEAR THAT THE US POINT WHICH WOULD BE SUBJECT ROUTE TALKS WOULD BE IN ADDITION EXISTING OPERATIONS.

4. THERE IS NO MENTION OF ALL CARGO SERVICES IN DEAL AND WE WOULD HAVE TO RECOGNIZE THAT IT MIGHT TAKE SOME TIME TO WORK THIS OUT SINCE PAL APPEARS TO HAVE LITTLE NEAR TERM INTEREST. HOWEVER, THERE IS SUPPORT FOR EXPANDED CARGO OPERATIONS IN GOP ECONOMIC CIRCLES AND THIS COULD REPRESENT POSITIVE INFLUENCE. IN ANY EVENT WE WOULD PRESUMABLY INSIST ON NO CHANGE IN EXISTING CARGO ARRANGEMENTS.

5. ABOVE PROPOSALS REPRESENT ABSOLUTE MINIMUM US REQUIREMENTS AND USDEL WOULD NOT RECOMMEND FURTHER CONCESSIONS.
KINTNER

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